

Safe Driving



SEAT BELTS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Did you know that motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 cause of on-the-job fatalities? Vehicle crashes also account for major economic losses to all types of businesses and industries.

Seat belt use has been a fact of life for most Americans for several years. All 50 states and Washington D.C. have enacted mandatory seat belt use laws. Some states have a primary seat-belt law that allows a police officer to stop drivers and issue citations solely for not using a seat belt. However, studies indicate that only about 68 percent of automobile drivers say they always buckle up.

Here are a couple of very important reasons you should always buckle your seat belt:

- Seat belts help keep the driver in position.

Even though you may be an excellent driver, you cannot control your vehicle if you're knocked out of position in a crash. Your seat belt will keep you in place behind the wheel where you have a chance to maintain control of the vehicle.

- Seat belts keep you inside the vehicle.

Seat belts can keep both the driver and passengers from being ejected from the vehicle during a crash. Your chances of avoiding major injury or death are much greater if you remain inside the vehicle rather than being thrown from it.

U.S. Department of Transportation statistics for fatal crashes show:

- 63 percent of all vehicle crash fatalities were not wearing their seat belt

- Only 1 percent of the vehicle occupants using seat belts were ejected from their vehicle
- 18 percent of vehicle occupants not using seat belts were ejected from their vehicles
- 74 percent of occupants totally ejected from passenger cars were killed

Make sure all seat belts in the vehicle you're driving are in good working order and are properly adjusted. Provide approved car seats for infants and/or small children who may be traveling in your vehicle.

Make wearing a seat belt a habit for yourself and a requirement for all passengers. Using a seat belt can save your life.

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Bottom line, a better value.SM

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